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GST MOP-UP RISES 12% YEAR-ON-YEAR TO ₹1.61 LAKH CRORE IN JUNE: GOVT DATA

The gross GST mop-up crossed ₹1.60 lakh crore mark for the fourth time since the indirect tax regime was rolled out six years ago in 2017

UP FROM ₹1.57 LAKH CRORE IN MAY

Of the ₹1,61,497 crore collected in June, ₹31,013 crore is Central GST, ₹38,292 crore is State GST, ₹80,292 crore is Integrated GST, and ₹11,900 crore is cess (including ₹1,028 crore collected on import of goods). The GST revenues touched a record high of ₹1.87 lakh crore in April. In May, it was down to ₹1.57 lakh crore. A rise in GST collection indicates growth in economic activity | P13

K'TAKA GROSS REVENUE GOES UP BY 27%

- The gross GST revenue collected in Karnataka in June 2013 went by 27 % compared to the corresponding month last year.
- According to the details, Karnataka's GST collection in June this year was Rs 11,193.20 crore, while it was Rs 8,844.88 crore in June 2022.

18%
YEAR-ON-YEAR RISE IN REVENUES FROM DOMESTIC TRANSACTIONS IN JUNE

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XPLAINER

Today's redesigned back page, themed *Xplainer*, gives you the lowdown on the Artemis Accords and the MQ-9B drone deal signed with the US recently. —Editor

Teesta gets SC relief from HC fiat to surrender

Top court's division bench was divided, so the matter went to three-member bench

SHRUTI KAKKAR & DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @New Delhi/ Ahmedabad

SOCIAL activist Teesta Setalvad late on Saturday night got some relief after a three-member special bench of the Supreme Court stayed for seven days a Gujarat High Court fiat directing her to surrender immediately in a criminal case related to the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Before that there was a lot of court room drama as a two-judge special bench of the SC had differed on granting her interim protection.

The matter then went to the three-judge special bench of the SC comprising B R Gawai, A S Bopanna and Dipankar Datta, which stayed the HC order.

In the division bench, Justice A S Oka expressed his intention to grant her protection by asking the state to place on record that no coercive action would be taken against her. However, Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra was reluctant. They then referred the matter to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, asking him to constitute a three-judge bench to hear bail plea.

"There is a disagreement between us on the question of grant of interim protection. So we request the Chief Justice to assign this matter to a larger bench," the bench said.

HC order
Gujarat High Court judge Nirzar Desai had directed petitioner Teesta Setalvad to surrender immediately

Justice Oka was of the view that the high court should have "given some breathing time" for her to surrender and for the matter to be placed before the top court.

The SC granted Teesta interim bail on Sept 2, 2022. Justice Oka said, "The court (HC) could have granted at least breathing time so that it could have been considered by the SC. Heavens won't fall if you say that you will not take any action until Tuesday."

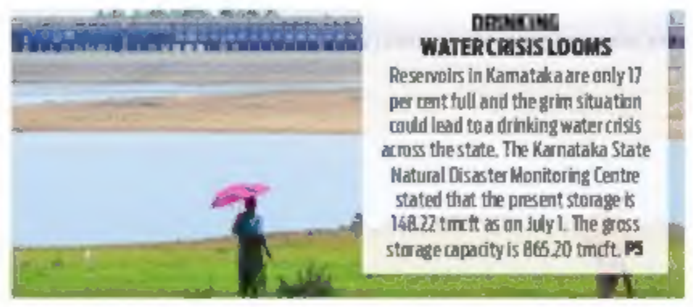
Appearing for the Gujarat government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said Teesta was not entitled to interim protection since she took the system for a ride.

Low water level may start row with TN

K SHIVA KUMAR & DEVARAJ HIREHALLI @ Mysuru/Bengaluru

WITH major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin hitting rock bottom and monsoon delayed for a few weeks, the Cauvery water-sharing dispute may come to the centre stage again. The Cauvery basin that received copious rains over the last five years has slipped into a grim situation with the combined storage of Kabini, Harangi, Hemavathi and KRS reservoirs at just 30.5 tmcft as against the capacity of 114 tmcft.

The situation may become alarming and add to worries of the new government if the Cauvery basin does not receive normal rain in the next couple of weeks. It could also hit drinking water supplies to Bengaluru, Mysuru, and other towns. Kodagu, which falls in the Cauvery catchment area, has received less than 50% rain as compared to last year and 75% deficit as compared to 2021 that does not bode well for both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



DRINKING WATER CRISIS LOOMS
Reservoirs in Karnataka are only 17 per cent full and the grim situation could lead to a drinking water crisis across the state. The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre stated that the present storage is 148.22 tmcft as on July 1. The gross storage capacity is 865.20 tmcft. P5

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said in New Delhi on Friday that Karnataka is not in a position to release water to Tamil Nadu as there is not enough water in the dams in the Cauvery basin. On Saturday, he told reporters in Bengaluru, "We don't want to fight with Tamil Nadu as they are our brothers."

He said he has invited officials from the Centre, other states, especially Tamil Nadu, and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) for a meeting on the safety of dams on July 9 at the Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) reservoir to have first-hand information about the situation.

"Last year, around 700 tmcft of water may have reached the sea. This year, even if Tamil Nadu insists on us to release water, there is not enough water. There is a scarcity of drinking water for us, with Bengaluru also facing the grim situation," he said. P5

CONG RAPS GOVT ON UCC

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

A Congress Parliamentary Strategy Group meeting chaired by UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi here on Saturday reiterated the party's position that the 22nd Law Commission's decision to seek public opinion on a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) represents the government's desperation to continue with its agenda of polarisation and diversion from its failures.

The party will examine the issue after the government comes up with a UCC draft.

The meeting also discussed the key issues that will be taken up during the monsoon session of Parliament, which begins on July 20. Many leaders, including Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Shashi Tharoor, Digvijay Singh, Jairam Ramesh, Salman Khurshid and Pramod Tiwari attended the meeting.

"We stated our stand on UCC on June 15 after the Law Commission issued a public notice. When there is a draft or a discussion, we will participate and examine the issue. Right now, we only have the commission's notice," said Jairam Ramesh.

The meeting came ahead of a Standing Committee meeting of Law and Justice on July 3 to seek the views of the members of the Law Ministry, Law Commission, and other stakeholders on UCC. In its June 15 statement, the party said, "The real reason is that the 21st Law Commission after carrying out a detailed and comprehensive review of the subject observed that it is "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage" to have a UCC," said the statement.

While speculation is rife that the government may table the bill on UCC in the upcoming session, some of the Opposition parties like Uddhav's Shiv Sena and the Aam Aadmi Party are not on the same page. They have extended qualified support to it. The divergent positions of the opposition parties will be advantageous to BJP at a time when the parties are set to meet for the second time in Bengaluru on July 14.

Parliament Monsoon session from July 20

New Delhi: The Monsoon Session of Parliament will begin on July 20 and continue till August 11, said the government on Saturday. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a tweet that the session will be spread across 23 days and will have 17 sittings. He sought the cooperation of all political parties for the smooth functioning of the House.

Money for Anna Bhagya likely from July 10: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

CONFUSION continues as to when the state government will start depositing money into the accounts of beneficiaries of the Anna Bhagya scheme.

A day after Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa said the beneficiaries will start getting money from Saturday (July 1), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday clarified that they will "most likely" start depositing the money into beneficiaries' accounts from July 10.

A senior officer said they are working on the process. The state government recently decided to give Rs 34 per kg for additional 5 kg of rice from this month as it was unable to procure rice for the scheme. P4

3 children among 25 charred to death in Maha bus accident

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AT least 25 people, including three children, were charred to death in sleep and eight others were injured after a private bus they were travelling in caught fire in Maharashtra's Buldhana district on Saturday, the police said.

The bus, carrying 33 passengers, was on its way from Nagpur to Pune when it hit a divider around 1.30 am near Sindkhedraja in Buldhana, the police said. The bus belonging to Vidarbha Travels had left Nagpur for Pune at 4 pm on Friday. It stopped at Karanja in Yavatmal district for dinner, police said.

As per preliminary reports, the bus hit a pole after a tyre burst, collided with a divider and caught fire, said Buldhana Superintendent of Police Sunil Kadasnet. "All the passengers were sleeping at the time of the accident," the SP said, adding that the injured, including the bus driver and its cleaner, survived the crash and came out through broken windows. The injured have been rushed to Buldhana Civic Hospital and their condition is stated to be stable, the SP said.

A passenger bus in flames after it overturned on the Samruddhi Expressway in Maharashtra's Buldhana district in the early hours of Saturday | PTI

There were two drivers in the bus. Kadasnet said one of them was sleeping. But the other, who was driving, may also have fallen asleep, resulting in the accident. The officer added that a probe is on.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the families of the deceased. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the bodies of the deceased were charred beyond recognition and said DNA tests would be conducted if the identities can't be established.

Expressing grief, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Deeply saddened by the devastating bus mishap in Buldhana, Maharashtra. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected. An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives. ₹50,000 would be given to the injured."

NCP chief Sharad Pawar expressed grief and said the government should take immediate steps to prevent such accidents.

EXPRESS READ

SEP will replace NEP: Sudhakar

Bengaluru: Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar said Karnataka will go ahead with implementing a State Education Policy (SEP) to replace the National Education Policy. Sources said a committee will be formed to study NEP and suggest changes. P5

5 ISIS accused got tech training

Bengaluru: In its first supplementary chargesheet in the Shivamogga ISIS case, the NIA said five of the nine accused were "tasked by the foreign-based ISIS handler to pursue robotics courses, to pick up skills to carry out terrorist attacks" in India. P5

Do not pay E-way toll: Minister

Mysuru: Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy criticised the Modi government over toll collection on Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. "I have asked people not to pay toll on the E-way. I will support the protest at the toll plaza," he said. P5

Height, BMI gap between urban, rural kids narrowing

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

CHILDREN from urban areas are globally known to be taller and heavier compared to their counterparts with rural backgrounds. But a latest study published in *Nature* shows that the trend is changing. The height and body mass index (BMI) difference is narrowing down considerably, and in rich countries, urban kids are even shorter than rural folks.

The change was spotted after an analysis of comprehensive data involving 71 million participants.

The study noted that in 1990, urban adolescents (aged 5-19 years) were much taller than kids from rural areas. This trend was consistent in 200 countries.

However, by 2020, most countries saw that being narrowed except in some rich nations where urban children were even shorter and weighed less.

The gap between rural and urban kids, especially boys, was greater in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, said the study. 'Diminishing benefits of urban living for children and adolescents' growth and development.'

"Our results show that in much of the world, the growth and developmental advantages of living in cities have diminished in the twenty-first century, whereas in much of sub-Saharan Africa, they have amplified," the exhaustive study said.

However, in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and some countries in Oceania, the gap between urban and rural boys increased the most in the last three decades. The rural boys in these regions continue to be shorter and lighter. This is an exception from other countries where this gap has narrowed.

"From 1990 to 2020, the BMI of successive cohorts of children and adolescents in both urban and rural areas increased in all but a few mostly high-income countries (like Denmark, Italy and Spain)," it said, adding, "there was heterogeneity in low-income and middle-income countries in how much the BMI increased in cities compared with rural areas.

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